

RESTORATION

Project title: Yellowstone Gray Wolf Restoration Project

Principal investigator: Dr. Douglas Smith
Phone: 307-344-2242
Email: doug_smith@nps.gov
Address: P.O. Box 168
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Objective: Monitoring reintroduced wolves in Yellowstone National Park.

Findings: 132 wolves in 10 packs in Yellowstone National Park; 216 wolves in 24 packs in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE); 14 breeding pairs in the GYE. About 77 pups survived. Average pack size = 13. Collared 32 wolves.

Project title: LeHardys Rapids Yellowstone Cutthroat Egg Collection for the Development of Species Specific Brood Stock for Drainage Restoration

Principal investigator: Mr. James Barner
Phone: 307-473-3416
Email: jbarne@state.wy.us
Address: 3030 Energy Lane, Suite 100
Casper, WY 82604

Additional investigators: Brian King, Pete Feck, Paul Krestchmar

Objective: To collect and fertilize eggs from Yellowstone Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki bouvieri*) pairs to develop a captured brood stock program. Traditionally eggs have been collected from the population that inhabits the Yellowstone River from Yellowstone Lake to the Upper Falls with the primary capture location being LeHardys Rapids. With the extremely low water levels of 2001 and difficulty capturing fish at LeHardys Rapids, fish that ran Clear Creek were captured, eggs were collected, and the progeny will be used for brood recruitment depending on genetic evaluation.

The original objective was to collect a partial spawn from a minimum of fifty pairs for three consecutive years (2001–2003) but due to a catastrophic flash flood which washed out the brood pond at the Clarks Fork facility spawning will need to be carried out for at least three more years to establish this stock. The intent of this stock is restoration of the endemic range of Yellowstone Cutthroat in Wyoming and Montana. If low water conditions persist we would like to utilize the Clear Creek population for recruitment again.

Findings: Eggs were taken on two occasions from June 21 to June 27, 2001. The collections were as follows: Lot Number = Year source species take, Year = Two digit year the fish were collected

(2001=01), Source = Spawning location code (Clear Creek = 57), Species = Three letter species code (Yellowstone Cutts = YSC), Take = Sequence the spawn was taken (1st spawn = 01), B1 = Indicates lot is brood recruitment, therefore only a partial spawn was removed from the female.

Lot 0157YSCB1: Spawned 01/06/21, females = 45, males = 45, eggs = 16650. Water temperature = 50°F, air temperature = 65°F, shipped to: Tillett Isolation Facility, Lovell, Wyoming.

Lot 0157YSCB2: Spawned 01/06/27, females = 37, males = 37, eggs = 13328. Water temperature = 48°F, air temperature = 55°F, shipped to: Tillett Isolation Facility, Lovell, Wyoming.

A total of 86 pairs were collected on the two dates above. A total of 86 ovarian samples were collected from the spawning population of Clear Creek. The green fertilized eggs were incubated at the Tillett Isolation Facility.